

## CLAIMS

1. Method for selecting a password encrypted with a correct software version in a telecommunication system comprising:

- 5       a source system (LE1);  
      a target system (LE2);  
      an operation and maintenance network (OM) established between the source and the target systems; and  
      an operation and maintenance center (OMC) connected to the operation and maintenance network (OM),  
10       said method comprising the steps of:

      logging on in the source system (LE1) by supplying a user identification and a valid password corresponding to it,

- 15       setting up a remote session connection via the operation and maintenance center (OMC) to the target system (LE2),

- checking the password for correctness in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2) by comparing  
20       the password with a password stored in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2), corresponding to the user identification.

      c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that the method comprises the steps of:

- 25       comparing the password encryption software versions in the target system (LE2) and in the source system (LE1) with each other; and, if the password encryption software versions in the source and target systems differ from each other;

- 30       sending a password associated with the user identification in question and encrypted with an earlier password encryption software version to the target system (LE2).

2. Method as defined in claim 1,   c h a r -  
35   a c t e r i z e d   in that the password encryption software versions are compared in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2).

3. Method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that passwords associated with different password encryption software versions are stored in a certain predetermined space in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2).

4. System for selecting a password encrypted with a correct software version in a telecommunication system comprising:

a source system (LE1);

a target system (LE2);

an operation and maintenance network (OM) established between the source and the target systems (LE1, LE2); and

an operation and maintenance center (OMC) connected to the operation and maintenance network (OM), in which system:

log-on in the source system (LE1) is accomplished by supplying a user identification and a valid password corresponding to it,

a remote session connection is set up via the operation and maintenance center (OMC) to the target system (LE2),

the password is checked for correctness in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2) by comparing the password with a password stored in the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2), corresponding to the user identification,

characterized in that the system comprises:

means (1) for comparing the password encryption software versions with each other; and

means (2) for sending to the target system (LE2) a password consistent with the software version used in the target system (LE2), associated with the user identification in question.

5. System as defined in claim 4, characterized in that the system comprises means

(3) for storing in a certain predetermined space the passwords associated with different versions of password encryption software of the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2) and belonging to user identification codes.

5 6. System as defined in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the source and/or target system (LE1, LE2) is a telephone exchange system.